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July 16, 1918. Temperature 83 a.m. 85 2 p.m. 85
Humidity 84 80

July 16, 1917. Temperature 6 a.m. 88 2 p.m. 89
Humidity 75 71

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TUESDAY, JULY 16, 1918.

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REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

PEACE TALK.

Imperial Cabinet and German Colonies.

London, July 15.

The Morning Post understands that the peace terms on which, according to Mr. Lloyd George, "the Imperial War Cabinet is pretty well agreed," certainly include the determination to refuse the return of German territories in the Pacific and Africa.

Another "Feeler" from Germany.

London, July 15.

Count Hertling, in a speech in the Reichstag on July 11, lengthily covered the familiar ground that Germany abided by the policy indicated in the reply to the Papal Peace Note and was ready to begin preliminary peace talks, but he said enemy statements continued to make inciting and insulting speeches revealing a desire to destroy the Fatherland. The Chief of the Army Administration is also ready to follow up any manifestations of a serious desire for peace amongst its enemies. At a conference at the General Headquarters, held on July 1, it was decided to abide by the Brest-Litovsk peace, but there were difficulties owing to the instability of Russia's condition. There were grounds for doubting the Bolsheviks' ability to carry out the promises made. Count Hertling declared that he did not want a fresh Russian War, which the enemy was trying to engineer. The Fatherland was doing its utmost to support the Russian Government's peaceful aims, but its varied political movements in Russia required the most careful watching. He said that Von Hintze possessed a thorough knowledge of Russian affairs, and Von Hintze had already given guarantees that he would follow Count Hertling's policy which was still the same as the Reichstag majority adopted in November, 1917.

The Question of Belgium.

London, July 13.

Reuter's correspondent at Amsterdam says that the following is substantially the text of Count Hertling's reference to Belgium in his speech:—"The present occupation of Belgium only means that we have a pawn for future negotiations. One does not intend to keep what one holds as a pawn, if the negotiations result favourably. We have no intention to keep Belgium in whatever form. We want Belgium restored after the war as an independent State." Count Hertling proceeded to dwell upon Germany's need for "open air for expansion," especially economically, which was quite compatible with Germany's viewpoint as regards Belgium. But how that viewpoint could be established in detail depended on the future negotiations, in connection with which he was unable to give a binding declaration.

GERMANY'S DELAYED OFFENSIVE.

A Suspicious Peacefulness.

London, July 14.

Reuter's correspondent at the British Headquarters, writing on July 14, says:—"The peacefulness on the front has now reached a pitch which may be labelled 'suspicious.' The enemy is husbanding his ammunition either with a view to accumulating a store or not provoking retaliation in sectors where his plans have been maturing for some weeks. Paris is entirely, and Amiens almost, immune from bombardment. The enemy has accepted with strange meekness the loss of positions of which he previously seemed desirous. These facts undoubtedly resemble storm portents, or, alternatively, adverse conditions for the enemy of which we are ignorant."

A Successful British Venture.

London, July 14.

Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, in a communique, states:—"In a successful local operation in the early morning of July 14, English troops advanced their line east of Dickebusch Lake and took over 280 prisoners."

More German Aeroplanes Destroyed.

London, July 14.

Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, reporting on aviation, says:—"We destroyed twelve aeroplanes on July 13 and drove down four uncontrollable. Three of our machines are missing. We dropped four-and-a-half tons of bombs during the day, and over eleven hundred bombs, weighing nineteen tons, during the night on enemy camps, railway lines, trains and billets. All the night fliers returned."

AFFAIRE IN RUSSIA.

Finland Guards Attack Railway.

London, July 15.

Reuter's correspondent at Stockholm says the newspapers report that the Finnish Guards are attacking the Murman railway in the direction of Kandalax and Kem and that they are thirty miles from the railway.

COUNT LICHNOWSKY.

Lively Debate in Prussian Parliament.

London, July 15.

Reuter's correspondent at Amsterdam says that the Prussian Upper House on Friday discussed a motion to expel Count Lichnowsky. The proceedings were most lively for four hours. The result was not disclosed, as the King's sanction is necessary to enforce the decision.

CHOLERA CASES.

London, July 15.

Reuter's correspondent at Stockholm that six of the crew of a steamer from Petrograd are suffering from Asiatic cholera. One had died.

EARLIER TELEGRAMS.

BRITISH STEAMER SUNK.

Bueno Aires, July 14.

The four thousand ton British steamer Indiana has been sunk in a collision. The crew were saved.

EARLIER TELEGRAMS.

RESTRICTION OF SUBMARINISM.

London, July 11.

Sir Eric Geddes in a speech in London said the extension and improvement of minelaying were gradually restricting the movements of enemy submarines. A barrage of mines stretches from Norway to Scotland. There were British mines in Heligoland Bight, also a barrage across the Channel. German photographs in the possession of the Admiralty confirmed that Zeebrugge harbour entrance was completely blocked. They showed that destroyers came out from Zeebrugge not by the canal, but from the side of the mole outside. We visited Heligoland Bight almost daily on, over or under water. Giving examples of daily events on the high seas Sir Eric Geddes told how six trawlers off Iceland attacked a submarine, which fired a hundred shots; but the trawlers knocked out one of her guns and hit her again. Then she dived. It was impossible to tell whether she sank. He also told how an enemy submarine discovered by a certain method was hunted for seventy-two hours. Many charges were dropped on her and she was finally compelled to come to the surface and surrender.

DO GERMANY AND AUSTRIA AGREE?

Zurich, July 14.

The Vienna "Arbeiter Zeitung" declares that the fall of von Kuehmann is a complete victory for Prussian militarism and extinguishes the last hope of a speedy peace. It must be clearly ascertained whether Berlin and Vienna still agree over their war aims and the continuance of the war. The German army command alone cannot dictate to Austria for what and how long she must fight.

THE WESTERN FRONT.

A German Effort Fails.

London, July 13.

Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports: We repulsed an attempted raid southward of Bucoy. Hostile artillery is active southward of Arras. There was no air fighting on the 12th owing to rainstorms and clouds. Our night fliers dropped four tons of bombs.

We drove off raiders eastward of Loere. Hostile artillery is active north-westward of Albert, westward of Kemmel Hill and southward and south-eastward of Ypres. Ours is active at a number of points.

French Capture 600 Prisoners.

London, July 14.

A Paris communique says: In a successful action north and south of Longpont we advanced our positions eastwards and crossed Haviere despite enemy resistance, capturing thirty prisoners. Our captures in the Montdidier region on Friday exceed six hundred. We also took eighty machine-guns.

"Flanders Fever."

London, July 13.

Reuter's correspondent at British Headquarters says: Of eight hundred prisoners which the Australians captured on 4th July a large proportion reported sick on the following day and were found to be suffering from high fever culminating in complete prostration. The sickness is partly attributable to malnutrition brought on by short rations. The Germans call this sickness "Flanders fever." It is more serious than Spanish influenza.

SPANISH INFLUENZA IN GERMANY.

Amsterdam, July 14.

The "Telegraaf" says that thousands of German industrial districts are suffering from so-called Spanish influenza. It is really a disease due to hunger and exhaustion. Numerous deaths occur daily. Eight thousand school children in Berlin are affected.

AFFAIRS IN RUSSIA.

Amsterdam, July 14.

The "Westfaelische Zeitung's" Kief correspondent says: The Bolsheviks at Moscow far from suppressing the revolutionaries are only holding their own with the assistance of the Lithuanian Guards.

A message from Moscow says: M. Trotzky told the All-Russian Congress of Soviets that the unity of the Soviet troops was suffering as a result of Anglo-French propaganda and part of them had deserted to the enemy.

REDUCTION OF GERMAN MEAT RATION.

Amsterdam, July 14.

The German meat ration will be reduced at the end of August from 220 to 200 grammes for towns of over one hundred thousand inhabitants. Smaller places will receive less.

THE ALBANIAN SUCCESSES.

London, July 14.

A French Eastern communique says: The enemy having suffered heavily in the retreat in Albania is now holding a line near the junction of the Tomorica and Devoli.

An Italian official message states: We repulsed an attempted attack southward of Sasorosso. We maintain contact with the new enemy line northward of Semani and have dispersed retreating enemy columns northward of Berat. The prisoners since 6th July exceed eighteen hundred.

FRENCH NATIONAL DAY.

Paris, July 14.

The anniversary of the fall of the Bastille was celebrated most enthusiastically. Detachments of all the Allied Armies, and the leaders of a huge crowd, marched past M. Poincaré from Bois-de-Boulogne to the Place Concord.

FAMOUS AIRMAN KILLED.

Paris, July 14.

The famous French airman Lieutenant Beaumont has been killed in a collision in the air.

A CHRISTIAN CRUSADER.

How An American in the War Lived and Died.

All the cynics and the pessimists ought to read the letters of a young American soldier, Edwin Austin Abbey, in the April Atlantic Monthly. Abbey was a University graduate and engineer, a devout Roman Catholic and a fervent patriot. He was bridge building in Canada when the call came to him in the spring of 1915, with irresistible demand. When he was appointed general manager of the job in which he was engaged he accepted on the understanding that he should be at liberty to leave it whenever the United States declared war upon Germany. "I am so full of that," he wrote to his mother, "it drowns out every ambition or desire or thought of the future that I have. I have nothing but a great big desire to give myself to help in this battle against evil."

Then came the affair of the Lusitania, which made him feel as if he "could not just go ahead making plans for my own advancement or my own family's welfare." "Above everything in the world I want to go to the war, and I want you and father to tell me that I can govern myself by what knowledge and judgment I have with the surety of your confidence in me to do right. I think I can manage to serve in some way if only you will give me the inspiration of your approval and trust, you and father." Great was his joy when his mother wrote him a letter of lofty sacrifice. But would the Canadian military authorities overlook his defective eyesight? He was rick with suspense during the ordeal, and when he was accepted he was stunned by his success—he was enlisted as a private.

His unquestioning Christianity continued to shine in the trenches amid the most overwhelming negation of it. "Do you not think," he asked his mother from the hell of Flanders, "that the war is making people less selfish?" He had pity even for the German soldier. "One must be here to realise that men have risen to a height of courage and endurance in this war that people living in modern civilisation never dreamed of." How much it meant to him, he said, that he was being prayed for twice daily in the school chapel at home! His mother had asked him what her "bit" could be. "Dear mother, that is it. You are praying not just for me, but for all of us out here, and the German soldiers, too. When I am under fire I pray not only for protection, or a worthy dying but for courage not to lose my control and to help others. The one great thing I need is courage and self-control in danger. Not only for myself, but for others. There is nothing which so encourages and gives heart to the weak as the strength and coolness of others; and there are many boys here, sixteen, seventeen, eighteen, full of bravery, but too young for a man's steadiness. Pray for them too."

He returned to this fear of being found afraid again and again—"I suppose one of the greatest fears a man has is that his nerve will give way or that he will be cowardly in some way. I have found in every trying circumstance that praying is a wonderful comfort. I do not know how a man can go through it who has not a belief in God to fall back on." Then he got a commission, a fresh stimulus to plans of self-sacrifice—"I am sure now that I can never go back and go on with my own work for myself. If God will that I do go back I must go into service of some sort; perhaps I shall be able to go into the

GERMANS ROBBED OF LOOT.

Y.M.C.A. Stores Distributed to British Troops.

During the recent German advance in Picardy and Flanders 130 Y.M.C.A. huts and centres were lost.

Sir Arthur Yapp before leaving for France to take part in a conference of American Colonial and British workers, told a Daily Chronicle representative that the lost huts and equipment were worth about £150,000. "But the enemy did not gain much from our lost property," added Sir Arthur. "Most of the huts were destroyed, and the stores were given away to the troops. In one section alone more than a million cigarettes were distributed."

During the present stage of the great battle it is impossible to replace the huts and tents; so temporary centres are therefore being erected as fast as they can be taken across.

Shortly to be added to the activities of the Y.M.C.A. is an educational scheme, in which all the Universities are co-operating. One of the greatest educationalists in England will be in charge of the working details. Distinguished lecturers will help with the curriculum, which includes languages and such practical subjects as agriculture and mechanics.

Here is an abbreviated list of articles which have been sent to the French front during the past six months by the Y.M.C.A.—Pianos and harmoniums, 98; gramophones, 170; records, 2,500; billiard and bagatelle tables, 138; boxing gloves, 1,080; volley, punch, and net balls, etc., 203; steel quoits, 1,280; cricket bats, 725; cricket nets, 60; cricket balls, 3,420; tennis racquets, 650; tennis balls, 900; footballs, 1,100; hockey sticks, 324. Similar aids to recreation have been sent to the Egyptian and Salonica Expeditionary Forces.

Church, and your long cherished hopes and prayers will be fulfilled. . . . Mother, if you could only see these boys in the ranks cheerfully enduring the most frightful hardships, and facing horrors with the most inspiring and indomitable courage and determination, your heart would nearly burst with joy and pride, and you would know that God was going to give us victory. Just now the trenches are in a frightful condition of mud and water and it is utterly impossible for the men to keep dry or to have dry dug-outs to sleep in. They are in a state of misery as far as physical comfort goes for days at a time, and yet they stand all night, often for 18 hours at a stretch, in pouring rain and under intermittent fire, looking out over the parapet into the darkness of No Man's Land guarding humanity."

He gratefully acknowledges the gift of a Crucifix, which he pins inside his left breast pocket and feels "glad." On the day that the news of America's entrance into the war rejoiced and inspired him beyond expression he wrote his farewell letter to be posted to his mother in the event of his being killed, and within less than a week of its being written it was posted by his major, who told of his instantaneous death in an act of devotion and self-sacrifice to which all his thoughts at the front had been directed. "It may be a comfort for you to know," he wrote in this last letter, "that I have a great company of comrades, men and officers, all filled with determination and cheerful courage." He had his prayer, for he went to his death unafraid.

FILIAL PIETY.

An Extraordinary Tale.

At Chienyang Hsien, in Hunan, resided a man by the name of Kiang. He is 60 years old and if you saw him you would not see anything remarkable about him.

Every morning for a few hours he is to be seen outside the magistrates' yamen writing letters and calculating horoscopes. Yet this obscure, ragged and commonplace man is revered by all his fellow townsmen, old and young, rich and poor. For sixty long years he has sacrificed his own comfort in his filial love for his mother now deceased for some ten years.

When he was a boy and his mother was left a widow, he swore that he would devote his life to her comfort. He waited on her hand and foot and absolutely refused to marry lest a wife and the cares of a family should be a deterrent to his vow. This is unusual in China where marriage is almost universal. As the old lady grew in years, each milestone marking an increase in her feebleness, the devotion of this singular son did not diminish. In order to insure that his parent should have luxuries the son became a vegetarian and in every way he deprived himself to give everything to his mother.

Eventually the old lady died. The son was brokenhearted at his loss, but he resolved to continue his filial piety to the end. Each dawn and every evening, hot or cold, rain or fine, he wended his way to his mother's grave, and there offered the proceeds of his day's work, in meat and vegetables to his mother's spirit. You will laugh and say the dead cannot eat and that this practice was only a joke as the son would eventually eat the dishes. You are wrong. The son continued his austere and vegetarian life and the meat and dishes which he offered to his mother's spirit were regularly given to support another aged woman who was left destitute in her old age. "Rover" in the Central China Post.

CANTON NEWS.

Our Canton correspondent writes as follows:—

Government Headquarters. Shum Chao-chen has ordered that the Agricultural Testing Department be the headquarters of the Union Military Government and will remove there as soon as the necessary repairs have been done. He has also expressed the opinion that, as the Civil Governor is an important person in the capital, if Governor Li cannot come to Canton from Shikwan in the near future it is better to appoint someone to act for him.

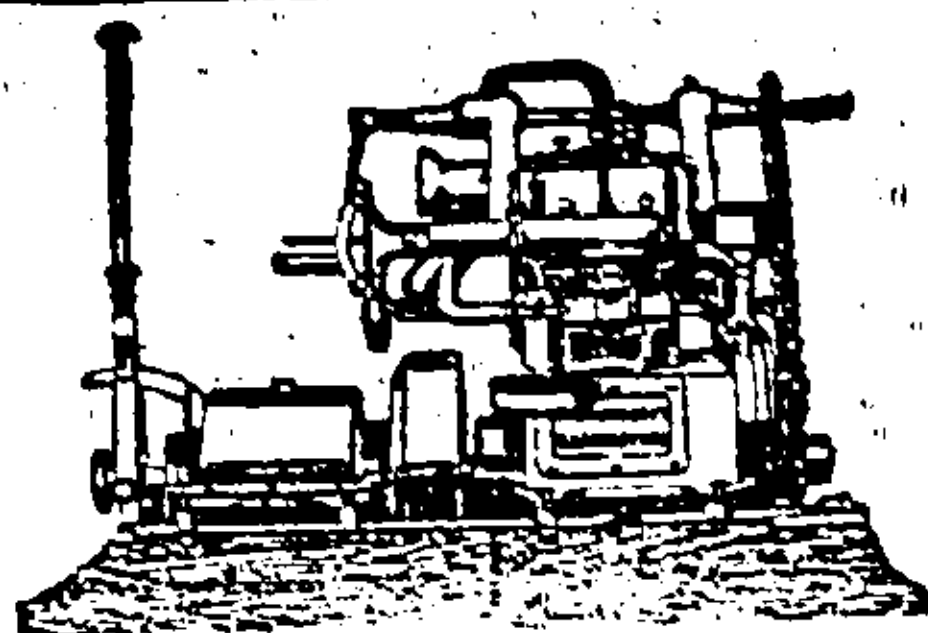
Opium Syndicate. It is rumored that the Authority has accepted an offer from a syndicate of \$800,000 per annum for selling opium in Canton under the name of "medical ointment for remedy of opium habits."

Wu Ting-fang's Appointment. On the election of Wu Ting-fang as Minister of the Foreign Department, it has been decided to ask Nan Ching-yao, who is at present in Shanghai, to be his assistant.

Before Lung Arrives. On hearing that Lung Xa-kwang has been instructed by his brother, Lung Chai-kwang, to protect Hoinan and Luichow pending his return with reinforcements from the north, the Authority has decided to increase the attacking forces to a great extent with the intention of capturing the two places within a month, before Lung's return.

To Develop the Pratax. A syndicate has formed a company with \$100,000 capital and requests permission to develop the Pratax Island.

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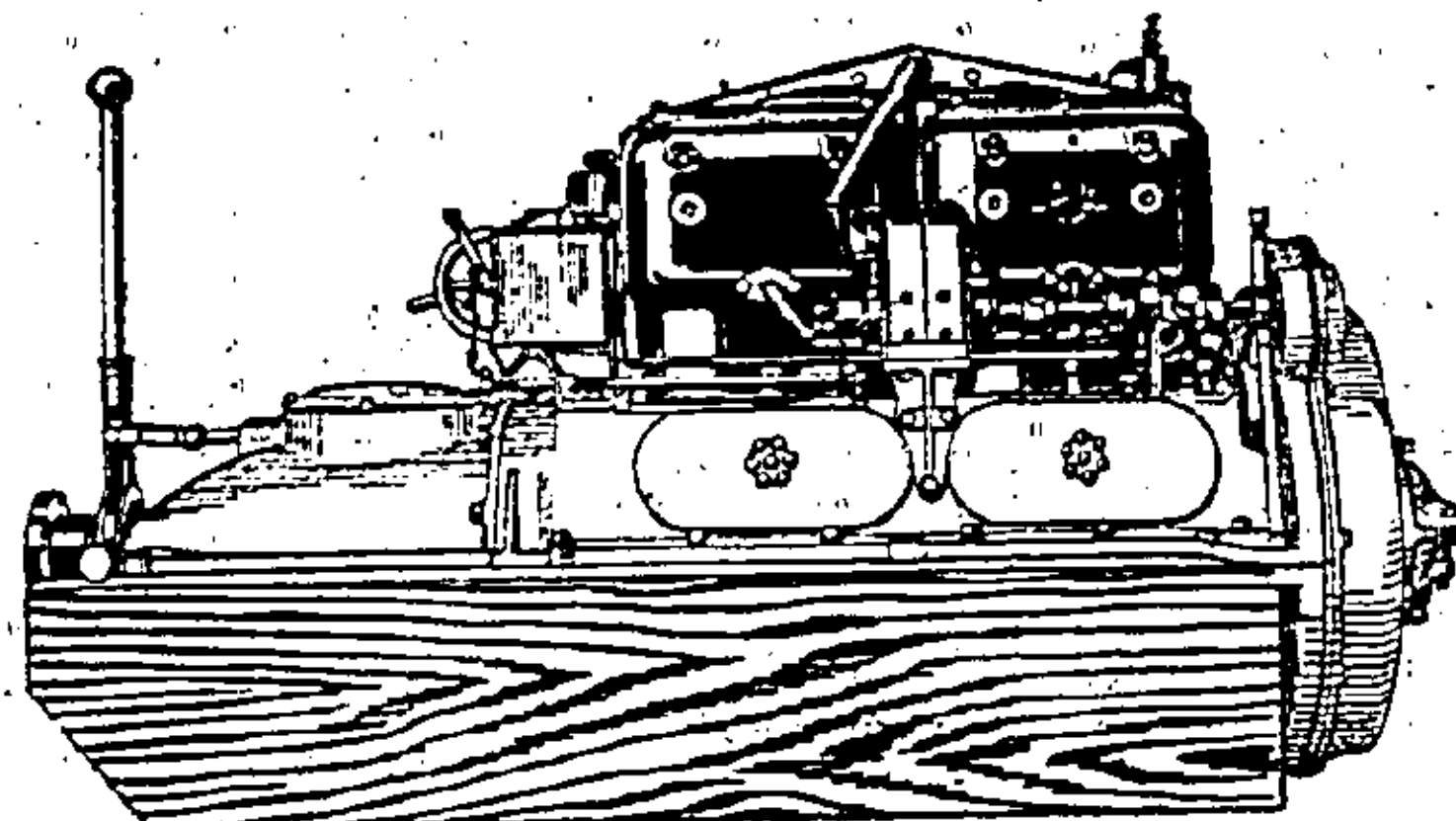
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THE NEW THERAPY

GENERAL NEWS.

Draper's Huge Fortune.
An estate of \$551,115 has been left by Mr. Wm. Paulden, of Paulden, Ltd., drapers, Manchester, the net personalty being \$501,586. He left bequests for charity and to employees.

Low Birth-Rate a Blessing.
Applauding the decline in the birth-rate Miss Lind-af-Hageby, at a meeting in support of a Ministry of Health, argued that the emancipation of woman had a great deal to do with it. They were beginning to care more for quality than quantity, and this, in spite of a smaller birth-rate, resulted in a larger population. It was not the result of selfishness, but of a higher social ideal.

Commissions for the Volunteers.
Any 'Volunteer' officers called up under the new Act would be eligible for a special course of instruction as cadets, said Mr. Macpherson in Parliament. The age limit of 45 previously mentioned was only provisional. N.C.O.'s and men in the Volunteers would be treated as other civilians, and on being recommended would be trained for commission in rank according to the demand for officers.

Zeebrugge Ferryboats on View.
The famous Mersey ferryboats Iris and Daffodil, which did such useful work in the Zeebrugge raid, were on public view in Portsmouth Dockyard, recently. Bluejackets acted as guides. The Iris showed evidence of having been more exposed to the enemy fire than her sister ship, which was protected by the Vindicator. She had part of her bridge shot away, and there is a big hole in the starboard side of her hull.

Wrong Rule of the Road.
Apparently it was through observing the American rule of the road that Cecil Lester Smith, 24, of the U. S. Navy, was run over and killed by a motor-bus at Victoria. It was very dark, and there was a lot of traffic. Dr. Edgar Thompson, medical inspector of the American Navy, said that Smith was a new-comer to London, and in the United States he proceeded on the right hand side instead of on the left. In America he would have been safe in crossing as he did. The jury exonerated the driver of the bus from blame.

Author Killed in Action.
In recent fighting in France Sec. Lieut. W. Hope Hodgson, R.F.A., author of several novels, was killed by a shell. As a boy he served an apprenticeship at sea, and later he entered the merchant service for a time, his experiences providing material for some of his books. He held the Royal Humane Society's medal for diving into a shark-infested sea and rescuing a sailor. He relinquished his first Army commission in 1916, owing to an injury, but on recovering he joined up again. Since the war Lieut. Hope Hodgson had published two books, "The Luck of the Strong" and "Captain Gault".

Dream of V. C. Comes True.
News came to Oswestry recently that a local man, Private Harold Whitfield, had been awarded the Victoria Cross for bravery in Palestine. On being informed of this, his aunt, with whom Private Whitfield makes his home, both parents being dead, exclaimed, "Why, I dreamt the other night that Harold had won the Victoria Cross." Private Whitfield is the second Oswestry man to win the V.C. in the war. The other was Brigadier-General Campbell, the "Tally Ho" hero, who led his men into action to the sound of the hunting horn, and who lives at Broom Hall, Oswestry.

No Military Training in School.
Should military instruction be given in continuation schools? It is not provided for in the Education Bill now before the House, but some members evidently fear its introduction. The question was debated in the Commons recently and Mr. Fisher, President of the Board of Education, said that, so far as he knew the mind of the War Office, they had no desire that military training should be included in the school curriculum. They wished only that boys should be in a fit condition physically when they left school. Two amendments were defeated, and the clause establishing Continuation Schools was left in its original form.

GENERAL NEWS.

Interned Debtor's £300,000 Deal.

Assets estimated to produce a surplus of £228,910 are shown in a statement of affairs filed under the failure of George Edward Heyl, consulting chemical engineer, of King's House, Kingsway. His total liabilities are put at £71,209. The debtor, who was born in Berlin, was naturalized a British subject in 1898, and is now interned at Brixton. His chief asset is a claim for £300,000 against a company as consideration for the sale of his patents, &c.

Colossal Dairy Co. Profits. Confirming as accurate the statement that the profits of the Maypole Dairy Company in 1917 were £747,000, compared with £482,000 in 1916, Mr. Parker, in the House of Commons, said that the prices of the products sold by the company were fixed by the Food Controller. He added that while the average dividend paid on the Maypole Deferred shares for the four years 1914-17 was 112½ per cent., the average dividend paid on these shares during the three pre-war years was over 190 per cent.

Corporation as Coal Agents. Sacks, barrows, handcarts, perambulators, even children's go carts, were used at Scarborough on Saturday at a sale by the Corporation of 300 tons of coal. The coal was purchased by the Corporation last year for the purpose of supplying the poor when local merchants could not undertake orders. For some weeks there has been a coal famine at Scarborough. The Corporation's stock was sold in quantities of from two stones to a hundredweight at the rate of 1s. 6d. per hundredweight.

Soldiers Three "Wives". In Court.

Three women, whom he had married, gave evidence at Old-street in two charges of bigamy against Charles E. Elmes, a private in the A.S.O. The first wife said she married Elmes in 1898, and they lived together two years. Ellen Groves, with whom he went through a form of marriage in January 1914, said that in consequence of quarrels, she "turned out" Elmes, and she added, "I was very glad to get rid of him." Another witness was Nora Murfit, who said she "married" Elmes in October 1914, and lived with him until his arrest. In defence, Elmes, who was committed for trial, said Murfit and Groves both knew he was a married man.

Still More Potatoes. Potatoes are promising well, but another spurt would do no harm. Preliminary returns indicate that the acreage of 1918 will exceed that of 1917 by about 25 per cent. When allotments and cottage gardens are taken into account, the total acreage of 1918 will be nearly 900,000 acres. There are still plenty of seed potatoes, and the final effort on the part of every farmer who has land to spare during the next few weeks should bring the country well within sight of the million acres for which the Prime Minister appealed. As the entire crop, apart from what is needed on the farms, will be purchased by the Ministry of Food, no grower incurs any risk of growing more potatoes than he can sell.

Legion of Honour for War Writers.

Mr. Henry Wood, United Press correspondent with French Armies, telegraphs from Headquarters: "In recognition of the important role performed by the correspondents in promoting among the Allies a greater understanding and appreciation of each

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other's contribution to the common cause, the French Government (at the request of General Petain) has conferred the decoration of Chevalier of the Legion of Honour on seven of the English and American correspondents who have been attached for the past 20 months to the French Armies. Those receiving the distinction were:—Mr. Gerald Campbell (Times), Mr. G. Herbert Parris (Daily Chronicle) and (Daily Telegraph), Mr. Werner Allen (Morning Post), Mr. Lester Lawrence (Reuter's Agency), Mr. Henry Wood (U.P.A. of America), Mr. Robert Berry (Associated Press of America), Mr. Paul Scott Mowrer (Chicago Daily News).

GERMANY'S GREAT AFRICAN EMPIRE.

Ireland to Help Its Realisation.

Herr Emil Zimmermann, the expert creator of German Central African Empires, is very active just now on the subject of Raw Materials. He has written an inordinately long article in the *Vossische Zeitung* on this subject, laying special stress on "Oil." According to Herr Zimmermann, it is oil which lies at the very root of German prosperity. De-

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prive the country of oil, seal up her sources of oil supply, and you lay the axe at the root of the entire industrial system of the empire.

At earlier stages of the war Herr Zimmermann pointed to the Belgian and French Congo as sources of oil supply for Germany. With these territories in German hands—"a highly probable result of the coming peace"—and with intensified oil culture in Togo, Cameroons and East Africa it is most probable that in five years the oil exports of these territories would reach 250,000 tons. For the present this might be sufficient to go on with.

But the writer's ambitions soar still higher. He has fastened his eyes on British Nigeria. A German peace will no more leave Nigeria and Sierra Leone in the hands of the British than it will consent to leaving Togo and Cameroons in their hands, or the French. This makes another million tons annually. "Even with a fair treatment of British, and French interests in Africa it may be computed that the future German African Empire, with the South Sea Colonies, will alone supply a million and a half tons, and that about 400,000 tons are immediately available for shipment."

"This mighty empire," says Herr Zimmermann, "is not yet firmly in our hands. We must await coming events, and then speak. We shall speak German. It will then also be necessary to arrange for a lasting connection and linking up of our colonial empire with the Homeland." Then

comes a remarkable passage which should receive wide attention: "At the meeting recently of the German-Irish Society Herr von Stumm, of the Foreign Office, declared that a free Ireland means the freedom of the seas; and that a German alliance with a free Ireland would mean the establishment of a perfect and lasting communication between Germany and her African colonial empire."

Herr Zimmermann states that in a not very remote future: railways under German control will be built from the north coast of Africa to the heart of the Dark Continent. "The way to our African Empire would then lead through Austria and Italy, and it would be only necessary to secure the sea routes—Bulgaria—Bosphorus and Sicily—Tripoli or Tania." Further, the connection from the Persian Gulf to East Africa, or from Aden to East Africa, must be secured, and it must be a point in our future programme to draw Abyssinia into the German Turkish political union.

Herr Wilhelm August von Stumm, whose remarks at the German Irish Society's meeting are quoted above, has had a lengthy diplomatic career, having served to Washington, Paris, Vienna, Petrograd, and twice in London.

He is a man of great wealth, derived from the iron and steel trade. Before the war he specialised as "pro-British," and made a point of saying friendly things to British visitors. In Germany he has the reputation of being

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ACKNOWLEDGE.

Mr. J. Rodger and Family tender their heartfelt thanks for the many kindly expressions of sympathy during their recent sad bereavement; also for the numerous floral tributes.

The Hongkong Telegraph.

HONGKONG, TUESDAY, JULY 16, 1918.

THE GERMAN FOREIGN SECRETARYSHIP.

As was but to be expected, the resignation of Baron von Kuehlmann, coming so suddenly after his very candid statement regarding the improbability of Germany gaining a victory wholly by means of military prowess, has caused quite a sensation throughout the world and not a little speculation regarding the appointment of Admiral von Hintze as his successor. Nowhere, it would appear, has the resignation caused so great a stir as in Austria, where, more than elsewhere, peace is ardently longed for. The Austrians, it was already known, considered that in von Kuehlmann they had found the best exponent of the idea of a moderate peace—the only kind of peace which the Austrians could conceive as likely meantime, and which was in marked contrast to the absurd hopes embodied in the peace "feelers" occasionally circulated by the Germans. The Austrians therefore viewed with something like dismay the change in the German Foreign Secretaryship, as they realised, as indeed most people do, that the appointment of von Hintze is unquestionably in the nature of a triumph for the Pan-Germans.

Thus the Austrians and the British look upon the appointment quite differently, the latter being of opinion that it is better to have the views of an out-and-out Pan-German, with all his arrogant and absurd assumptions, than the much less understandable views of a "moderate" man of the Kuehlmann type, who are apt to be somewhat vague. There are, no doubt, other views besides these, and what Holland thinks on the subject may be gathered from the fact that the announcement of the change has caused a fall on almost all the securities on the Amsterdam and Rotterdam Stock Exchanges. In Germany itself, it appears that the incident is considered as a triumph for the "von Tirpitz clique" which of course means that it is unquestionably in the interests of the Pan-Germans and the Fatherland Party.

That the Austrians are extremely disappointed by the new turn of events which, to their undisguised regret, has made it possible for one who is not of their own "moderate" way of thinking to come to the fore, is further emphasised by one of the latest telegrams to hand. In this telegram it is stated that the *Arbeiter Zeitung*, which is unquestionably one of the most influential papers in Vienna, declares that the fall of von Kuehlmann is "a complete victory for Prussian militarism and extinguishes the last hope of a speedy peace." So serious a view of the situation does this newspaper take—and doubtless in doing so it is reflecting the opinions of millions of the people of Austria and Hungary—that it does not hesitate to suggest that the time has arrived when it "must be clearly ascertained whether Berlin and Vienna still agree over their war aims and the continuance of the war." This is very plain speaking from one Ally to another, and nothing but the fact that there is in many respects a very serious divergence of views would cause it to be uttered. It is quite clear, as indeed it has been for a long time past, that Austria-Hungary is utterly tired of the prolonged character of the war—a weariness, doubtless accentuated by the knowledge that the more hostilities are protracted the less is she likely to gain. Meanwhile her population is literally on the verge of starvation. Her only hope therefore lies in the speedy realisation of peace. So desperate is the situation for Austria-Hungary that the *Arbeiter Zeitung* does not hesitate to say that the German Army alone cannot dictate to Austria-Hungary why she should and for how long she must fight. It is thus quite plain that Austria-Hungary views with dismay a continuance of the war, and would be only too willing to enter upon peace negotiations. Another heavy blow, such as she received in Italy recently, will cause her to renounce her alliance with Germany and seek peace on her own account. This is a consummation devoutly to be wished, for in such a step the beginning of the end should be well within sight.

In the Main Theatre.

It has been suggested to us that we must now be well on the way to winning the war, since a telegram which appeared in our issue of yesterday spoke of a French advance of no less than five hundred kilometres! That is, of course, rather an over-statement of the facts, due to a misprint; it should have read five hundred metres. But though the Allies have not yet quite reached Berlin, the daily reports coming through from the Western Front most give cause for much satisfaction.

All the time, both the British and the French are improving their positions, and it is quite common experience to have it reported that little batches of hundreds of prisoners have been taken. For instance, the British have just made a haul of close on three hundred Huns, while the French report capturing another six hundred. The point naturally suggests itself as to what the inactivity of the enemy implies, and we can quite understand the prolonged peacefulness being regarded as "suspicious." Time, of course, will elucidate the point, and we can meantime only "wait and see." But the German hesitation to strike blow has at any rate two useful effects. It gives the Allies time and opportunity to strengthen their positions while at the same time it makes the enemy's future task harder, since all the time America must be pouring in more men. It is the Allies, and not the Germans, who are gaining through the delay, and for this reason we can look with the utmost confidence to future developments.

Germany's Former Colonies.

It will be a matter for much satisfaction throughout the Empire that the British Imperial War Cabinet "is pretty well agreed" that whatever peace terms may be entered upon they will certainly include the determination of the Allies to refuse to return the German territories in the Pacific and Africa. All in the Dominions, the Colonies and the Overseas "possessions" generally will profoundly hope that such determination will be strenuously maintained, despite the Pan-German bombast that it will probably evoke. We have the Germans beaten, and they know it; and no matter whether the negotiations for peace are entered into now or later it is for the Allies, as conquerors, to declare upon what terms they will consent to a cessation of hostilities. To the Australian Commonwealth, to the Crown Colonies in the Far East and to Japan, the Motherland owes it that never again shall the opportunity be given to the Germans to create trouble in the Pacific, just as it is but justice to British and Boer alike, as it is to the French and the Portuguese, that the Germans should be excluded from Africa. The Germans, by their execrable conduct, have shown that they are unfit to be classed among first-rate nations and must therefore be relegated to a position among European States where they will no longer be a menace to Europe, to civilisation, and to those great and growing nations which form part of the British Empire.

Germany's Latest Peace "Feeler."

According to Count Hertling's latest statement regarding peace negotiations, the Germans (whom it is again very apparent are keenly anxious for peace) are holding Belgium "merely as a pawn" for future negotiations. They have, he declares, no intention of keeping Belgium. This is satisfactory, and is an improvement upon the enemy's previous statements regarding that unfortunate and gallant little country. But the Germans must be made to understand that both out of Northern France and Belgium they will have to go, bag and baggage, before the Allies will entertain any desire for peace negotiations. Time is with us and the Germans know it; and the longer peace is delayed the less likely will the Allies be to enter into anything likely to be satisfactory from the German standpoint. Count Hertling's statement is that of a man who is in a desperate position, and who is endeavouring to obtain what he can before he is compelled to accept what the Allies will allow him to have.

DAY BY DAY.

THAT WHICH CULTIVATES OUT-DOOR SPORTS AT THE EXPENSE OF INDOOR PASTIMES IS GOOD.

To-morrow's Anniversary.
To-morrow is the anniversary of the beginning of the Franco-Prussian War of 1870.

The Dollar.
The opening rate of the dollar on demand to-day was 3s. 4d.

The Colony's Health.
During Sunday and Monday, there were notified three cases of enteric fever (two fatal), and one non-fatal occurrence each of plague and spotted fever. All except one British sufferer from enteric were Chinese.

Opium Discovered.
Yesterday, P. S. P. and a party of Police searched a vessel in port for opium. In a lifeboat 330 lbs of raw opium were discovered. It is stated that the vessel was searched at Calcutta, Penang and Singapore.

Indian Constable Charged.
An Indian constable stationed at Tai Ho was charged before Mr. E. D. C. Wolfe, at the Police Court this morning, with stealing a gold chain, a silver watch and \$14 in money from Tai Ho Police Station. Defendant pleaded not guilty. The case was remanded.

Land Sale.
The sale took place at the P.W.D. offices yesterday afternoon of Inland Lot 2260, situated at Conduit Road and having an area of 27,161 square feet. The upset price was \$4,074 and the lot was purchased by Messrs. Wong Man To and Too Kam Shing for \$5,020.

A Strange Theft.
At the Police Court this morning, a Chinese was charged, before Mr. E. D. C. Wolfe, with stealing two mongoses from another Chinese who had just brought the animals up from Singapore. Defendant said he was merely engaged to carry them and he knew nothing about where they had come from. Defendant was sent to prison for one month.

Charge Withdrawn.
A Chinese contractor was charged before Mr. E. D. C. Wolfe, at the Police Court this morning, with carelessly carrying out blasting operations in Kennedy Road, with the result that fragments of stone broke some of the windows in buildings some distance away. Inspector Sim said he wished the charge withdrawn and defendant was accordingly discharged.

Victoria Theatre.

To-night and to-morrow night the Victoria Theatre has a special programme which should make a big appeal to its patrons. The star feature is the great "Gold Rooster" five-part drama, "The Spender," which is one of the most powerfully-acted films ever screened in the Colony. The other items will include further series of the annals of the war and the American Gazette, as well as a Harold Lloyd comedy picture, etc. It will thus be seen that a bumper programme is being offered.

"Police Reserve Gazette."

The July number, just published, of this entertaining little publication is a very creditable production, containing, as it does, many items of interest that ought to appeal to the general reader as well as to members of the Police Reserve. Besides Lieut. Millington's "P.O. Padden Head" cartoon, which in this, as in former numbers, happily "hits off" some little point of peculiar interest to the members of the Corps, there is another illustrated page in which is a full-length portrait of ex-Chief Inspector Farebrother Mason, now a lieutenant in a Machine Gun Corps on active service. The article, both in prose and verse, is extremely good and makes suitable reading for these sultry days. Another petition is announced, while, as formerly, a large number of the previous month's efforts are printed, many of them being bright and amusing.

THE TRIBUNAL.

Yesterday's Concluding Cases.

On the consideration by the Military Service Tribunal of the cases of Mr. B. D. Wilks and Mr. J. H. Donnithorne, of Messrs. Shewan, Tomes and Co., yesterday, Mr. Adamson appeared on behalf of the firm and said the pre-war European staff was seventeen men and three ladies, with about 40 Portuguese and Chinese. The staff to-day was reduced to fourteen European men, with six ladies, and the Portuguese and Chinese had been considerably increased. Fourteen men of the firm had left the Colony for military service, and that number did not include the two men now before the Tribunal, for whom no exemption was asked.

Mr. Wilks asked for a temporary exemption, his reason being that he would have to take up the question of his going to London. The Chairman pointed out that that was a matter entirely for the military and if the authorities were approached they might try to arrange the matter.

Mr. Adamson pointed out that Mr. Donnithorne asked to be allowed to go before; but as three men were then leaving the department it was not convenient to let him go. Mr. Wilks had been rejected for the Volunteers and that was the reason why he had not gone before.

The Tribunal decided to call up Mr. Wilks and granted Mr. Donnithorne two months' exemption.

The Central Agency.

In the case of Mr. J. Rodger, of the Central Agency, it was stated that he asked for a short temporary exemption, but the firm asked for absolute exemption. The Company had commenced business in Hongkong since the outbreak of the war in order to take over several agencies that were previously worked by German firms. The agency dealt with Messrs. Cotes, the cotton manufacturers. The present European staff was four, Mr. Rodger being the only one fit. None had left the Colony for military service.

Mr. Nicolson, appearing for the firm, said he was very much handicapped at the present time for not only was Mr. Wallace in Shanghai, but Mr. Wallace had gone to hospital and had undergone an operation. He would be absent for at least four weeks. At present the office was being carried on by two men and Mr. Rodger and himself were working late every night and on Saturdays and Sundays and were only able to partly keep up with affairs.

Major Morgan said he had no objection to a short exemption whilst Mr. Wallace was in hospital, for that would tide them over the difficulty.

The Chairman said that nobody would be leaving for the next few weeks and therefore the Tribunal was of the opinion that in this case no exemption should be granted.

Messrs. Moller and Co.

In the cases of Mr. S. T. Williamson and Mr. H. W. Lucas, of Messrs. Moller and Co., Mr. H. W. Looker appeared for the firm.

It was stated that the firm did not exist at the outbreak of the war. Mr. Moller then owned three steamers and that number had been increased to six. Of these two have been requisitioned by the Imperial Government and the remaining four are controlled by the Hongkong Government. There was no pre-war staff in Hongkong of course. The Hongkong office was opened in April of this year and then formed into a Company. The present staff in Hongkong was three European and three Chinese. There were also two Europeans in Shanghai and a Chinese staff. No members of the firm had left for military service. The Company put it that the Imperial interests and the essential interests of the Colony required that both the men should be given absolute exemption.

Mr. Cary, who is in charge of the accounts at the Naval Yard, said he had been asked to attend to give his opinion as to whether Mr. Lucas could be spared. He did not think that it was possible for an inexperienced man to do Mr. Lucas' work as far as the shipping control was concerned. It would be difficult to get another man, for he would have to be experienced in general shipping Wednesday.

TO-DAY'S MISCELLANY.

It is somewhat curious that Mr. Edward Shortt, K.C., has to submit himself for re-election to the same constituency as did Lord Morley of Blackburn when he accepted the Irish Secretaryship 25 years ago. Mr. Shortt's position, happily, is not so precarious as Lord Morley's seemed to be, for at the General Election only seven weeks before the Liberals had lost one of the two seats, and he had retained the other only by a narrow margin.

One of the reasons, in addition to his personal bravery, which endeared Mr. Arthur Balfour to the Irish during his Chief Secretaryship was his sense of humour. There is a story told that he had to attend as a witness at a trial at the Four Courts in Dublin. William O'Brien's paper, "United Ireland," had just come out with a particularly virulent and scathing attack on Balfour, and a very amusing cartoon of "A.J.B." As Balfour stepped into his waiting carriage while the crowd howled and booed, a small newsboy, bearing a copy of the paper, came up to Balfour and said: "Buy a copy, sir. Only a penny, with a lovely picture of yourself as the Devil." "Right!" said Balfour, and gave the boy half a sovereign. "It's worth it," said the Chief Secretary, laughing as the boy called down blessings on his head and the crowd changed their jeers to cheers.

It is curious to read to-day in Wolsley's "Soldier's Pocket Book," this, concerning war correspondents: "Soldiers, of course, object to their presence in camp upon military grounds, but as long as the British public are so keen for sensational news remains as it is now the English General must accept the position." The late Lord Brassey, at the beginning of hostilities, was calling on the War Office to "sternly suppress" the war correspondents, and you find sneers in the writings of a historian, who complains that nothing is known of glorious British exploits in former wars—from which correspondents were absent.

It is a puzzling feature about Tribunal appeals (says John Bull) that when they are heard in private the result is always exemption or extension. At Bangor, two brothers got a hearing in camera, and secured their exemption. The next man did not request a private hearing, and he has to go. Then came the turn of a manager, Class A, who succeeded in getting the doors shut, followed by six months' exemption. Somebody ought to find out what does happen at these private sittings; the results are uncanny.

A pathetic interest attaches to one portrait in the Royal Academy. This is the picture of Mr. Thomas Holmes, the friend of countless ex-prisoners. It was finished by the artist, Mr. Hugh Riviere, only just before Mr. Holmes died. Everyone who knew Mr. Holmes is pleased with the portrait. By the way, a portrait by Mr. Riviere, painted just before the war, is in Germany, where it had been sent for photographic purposes. Whether it will ever be returned to this country is doubtful.

Human activity is subject to strange vagaries in these days, says a correspondent of the *Daily News*. One of the most curious is the outbreak of hat looting in large territories in India, especially in Bengal and Assam. Scarcity is not unusual in India, and rice looting, for instance, would not be surprising at times; but hat looting from Indian papers to hand is a new thing. People are being urged by special tribunals in large groups for hat looting; in some cases men being sentenced to terms of rigorous imprisonment up to six years. Special constables have been sworn in, and the holding of banquets in Assam after dark has been prohibited. Why this particular epidemic has broken out is left in some doubt, but Justice of Madras attributes it to "practising." To that ubiquitous institution neither race nor colour nor caste can present effective barriers.

FROM THE PULPIT.

Undying Influence.

Notes of a sermon by the Rev. J. Kirk Macdonald at Union Church on Sunday morning:—
"He being dead yet speaketh."
—Eab 11/4.

Nearly 2,000 years have been added to that "yet," but its significance is not diminished. The centuries pile up between us and that farthest away time of dim tradition, but still we have a living message from the man who first taught that God is to be spiritually worshipped—Abel, whose sacrifice was accepted because it was the offering of faith. Through that "he being dead yet speaketh," and not the less clearly because his blood also cries from the ground, the first true worshipper being also the first martyr—which is typical of the whole way of this world.

Death does not put an end to the influence of a good life. The dead who die in the Lord rest from their labours, and their works do follow them, not seldom more fully than when they were here to see it. Philosophers, pondering the meaning of life, declare in certain moods that all the evils of our lot may be summed up in the one word mortality. "Here is man, a conscious being, able in imagination to retrace the ages behind him, to look into the issues of life ground him, able to think of the eternal God while conscious that he has measured out to himself only his pitiful three score years and ten. Is it not a shameful and a painful thing to be doomed to so brief a life, under conditions so narrow, to be like a steed fit for the chariot of the sun, yet forced to drag behind him the tumbrel of death?" But there comes a second thought, and we find the thinker arriving at reasons why the setting of a term to life is no real detriment, but, on the contrary, is necessary to make life worth while at all.

There is a "Legend of Jubal," true to experience as to imagination, which pictures man before and after he knew death. "In the old, soft, sweet days men lived in gladness; idleness, they played, they sang, they loved, in a life that had no gravity and no greatness, but when death came, a new meaning stole into life. Time took a new value; affection, by growing more serious, became nobler; men thought of themselves more worthily and of their deeds more truly when they saw that a night came when no man could work. The idea of death, which was to elude them, bade them live in earnest, for death had breathed into life the spirit out of which all tragic and all heroic things come." Such is the legend of prehistoric days, and the substantial truth it contains checks the common supposition, which has somehow intruded itself into our theologies, that physical death is in itself a punishment, a curse, a work of the devil. Death of the soul is indeed the wages of sin, but not the mere dissolution of the temporary tie between soul and body. The transition from mortal experience to a phase of experience beyond mortality is no curse, but the carrying out of our intended destiny. And so when those we love pass away in faith we are not to think of them as having ended a brief career but as having passed on a stage farther, entered a higher standard in the school, and with liberated aptitudes. I know well that it is not easy for us to realise this in the day when the shadow falls across our own threshold. We tend inevitably to think of our departed as having gone from the light of day, as being deprived of the brightness and the interest and the vigour of life. Yet this is pure unfounded illusion, arising simply because, being ourselves in the body, we are unable to conceive of any vivid experience apart from the life of the senses. The ancients compassionated their dead as having passed into a chill and empty realm, and being consumed with regretful longing for the full-blooded life of earth and sunlight. But for Christians life is brought through the gospel, life far exceeding anything possible to mortality.

In our sacred thoughts of our beloved let not the sorrow which must needs hang around our

own hearts darken our conception of their present state. They are with God, and in His presence is not vacancy and chill but "fullness of joy." By faith we join hands with the celestial company of which they form a part, and in that communion of the saints we understand that the spirits of just men, so far from being forlorn, bereft, are "made perfect" in that spiritual world, which, so far from being in any way inferior to this world of sense, is "very far better."

We have a right, I think, indeed a duty, to be happier in the thought of our departed than most of us allow ourselves to be. There is a subtle tendency to sorrow for those who are gone as though they needed our pity and our prayers, were somehow deprived and helpless, were friendless, homeless in a foreign land. All that is natural enough, but it is wholly off the mark. There is no ground for it either in reason or in revelation. When we say "poor so and so," we utter an impiety, though we do not mean it. "Blessed" are the dead who die in the Lord, not poor, not in need of sympathy. By faith and patience they have inherited the promises, and it is for us to beseech the voice which bids us be their followers. That is a voice which comes to us in many ways, but surely most tenderly and wisely of all in the living remembrance of those we loved, whom we love still, and will never cease to love, who "being dead yet speaketh." How near they are to us in reality, those who yet seem so out of reach and far away! A "cloud of witnesses," says the Apostle here, watching whilst we run the race which for them is over. Surely it is reasonable to believe they have some knowledge of how it fares with us here. Not of course in a way which would disturb or distress, or withdraw them from the proper pursuits and interests of the higher state to which they have passed. But it cannot be that they cease to remember us or fail to wish us well. And having themselves passed over the road we tread, they can look with a calmness and assurance of hope which are as yet beyond our attainment. Yet we on our part have certain gracious compensations, and one of them lies in the fact that we know our beloved better after they are gone than while they were with us, and love them better too. I suppose we blame ourselves because so often this is so, yet it seems an almost necessary result of the conditions of our mortality. Being dead they yet speak, and we hear with a finer perception. It is expedient for us that they go away, as in due time it will be for others that we should leave them. Beyond a certain point the senses and the whole material organisation of life do not reveal, but rather conceal.

"If I do not say," the Saviour said to His disciples, "the Comforter will not come unto you"—a deep true saying which becomes clearer to us as we grow older, and one after another is withdrawn into the unseen land. In a very real sense we know them more understandingly, more intimately, than had it been possible to keep them by our side. There is a revealing Spirit which takes of the best that was theirs and shows it to us. All that in any way prevented a true understanding fades in forgetfulness, whilst day by day whatever was precious stands out, constraining, winsome, drawing our hearts upwards.

It is not good to cherish morbid regrets, we know; not even on the tenderest memories must the thought and time be spent which are demanded by present duty. But it is no misuse of time to keep the quiet hour in which, drawn with cords of love, our hearts turn toward the land of light and the happy remembrance of those we love who dwell in it with the Good Shepherd, their struggles over, their tears wiped away. It is no treachery to the present, when, at a time, we quietly bring up the past; and let it speak, as so often it does, with an inward appeal not sooner possible.

Such are a few of the thoughts of comfort which these Bible words suggest. But their primary application here is the roll of faith's heroes is not so much comfort as stimulus—not that we are to separate these two, which it

FOR THE FRONT.

Farewell Concert to Police Contingent.

A very enjoyable send-off concert was given in the Compound at the Central Police Station last evening to the eight members of the Hongkong Police Force who are shortly leaving for Home to go on active service. This is the fourth contingent of men of the force to leave for the front, the names of the departing men being Messrs. Marks, McFall, Stout, Murphy, Murphy, Aitken, Wilson and Kennedy.

Among the very large attendance were the Hon. O.S.P., Mr. C. McI. Messer, Mr. P. P. J. Wredehouse, D.S.P., Mr. T. H. King, A.S.P., and many other well known local people. The chair was occupied by Inspector J. Grant, who was chairman of the Committee responsible for the arrangements, the other members of the Committee being Messrs. H. Peplow (Secretary), W. Hollands (Treasurer), J. Field, J. Taylor, G. Beckle, J. Boulger (Steward), and F. Latimer (Stage Manager).

During an interval in the proceedings, Mr. Grant made a short speech, wishing good-bye and good luck to the departing members. He mentioned that altogether no less than 69 members of the force had gone on active service, of whom eight had already made the highest sacrifice. He was sure that those who were going would keep up the high traditions of the force whilst in France.

The programme proved to be a varied and enjoyable one, those contributing being Messrs. McKenzie, L. Mac, Gravel, Crocker, T. Morley, Ward, Ouelson, Payne, L. Day, Latimer, Ashby, Overington, Geo. Crane and W. B. Cawsey. Mr. G. Crane acted as accompanist.

The proceedings were brought to a close by cheers for the departing men, and the singing of the National Anthem.

indeed are very closely related. The summons is that we aspire to enrol our names also with those of the great multitude who before us have lived, through faith, above themselves and above the world. The time is coming when the place that knew ourselves shall know us no more. I am told people do not like to be reminded of that, but I am not so sure. It is not to be harped upon, in season and out, but something is considerably wrong if we really do resent every reminder that we are mortal, fight shy of every allusion to the one certain fact about each one of us, which is that we are not going to be here for ever. I cannot believe we are so superficial, so craven-spirited, so uneasy in conscience as that would go to show. It is wise to think seriously about the influence we are likely to leave behind us, the kind of voice, which, being dead, will go on speaking, perpetrating what we were and what we strove for, inspiring others to emulate, imitate, excel, some good thing which can be gathered from the character and personality which we are daily building up, and which may very likely make more impression here or there long after we are gone than they seem to at the moment. Not until after many days are many fruits garnered. This was brought home to me lately by a letter from a friend in England, telling how in a recent very important choice in life he had been mainly influenced by the thought of what his father and mother would have said if they knew, "and perhaps they do know," he added—an idea he would certainly never have entertained a score of years ago when the parents passed away, the heaviest weight on their hearts being the knowledge that their own faith and principles seemed so little regarded by the following generation. You could all match such an instance, I dare say, and apart from definite details we are all influenced thus, unconsciously every hour. The voice of those who being dead yet speak is a quiet but unceasing undercurrent amid all the din and turmoil of the outer world. It is well to listen; it is well to yield. For that voice is their best to our best, and no man yet has been misled by following

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PIANO RECITAL.

Enjoyable Programme at Helena May Institute.

The hall at the Helena May Institute last evening was crowded when Mr. Denman Fuller gave a popular piano recital in aid of the Prisoners of War Fund, for which a collection was taken and a sum of \$200 secured. Those present included His Excellency the Governor and Lady May, Sir Ellis Kadoorie, the Hon. Mr. J. H. Kemp, C.B.E., and Mrs. Kemp, as well as many other well known residents. Previous to the recital, Mr. Denman Fuller spoke of the object which was being benefited and in aid of which he had given several recitals. He stated that he had recently received a letter from a British ex-prisoner who had escaped from Germany and who definitely stated that but for the parcels forwarded through the Fund, many of our men in Germany would absolutely starve. Correcting the impression that the parcels did not reach the British prisoners, he said they knew that many did reach their destination, but that if only one in a thousand got through, that one might mean the difference between life and death to one of our men.

The recital itself was thoroughly delightful. For the most part, the programme comprised popular items, but all of standard merit and acknowledged value. The audience was familiar with every one of the thirteen contributions which Mr. Fuller gave, but what lent them special charm was the recitalist's powers of interpretation. As a pianist, Mr. Fuller excels in this regard, while his technique also is beyond reproach. These points were well illustrated by his playing last evening. It would be hard to single out any one item as being better handled than the others, but his dainty presentation of such numbers as Poldini's Ponpee Valse, Rubenstein's Melody in F and Paderewski's famous Minuet in G was immensely enjoyed, while of a more ambitious order Rachmaninoff's ever-popular Prelude, Mendelssohn's Rondo Capriccioso, and last but not least, Liszt's magnificent Rhapsodie No. 12 revealed the true student of classical piano music.

Mrs. B. K. Deacon was the vocalist and she sang three bracketed solos so well that she was recalled and gave "Melissande" as an encore. She used her rich voice with much taste and seldom, if ever before, created such a good impression.

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SHIPPING NEWS.

Penang's Harbour.
The Penang Harbour Board's statement of income and expenditure for the second half of 1917 shows a loss of \$41,654.Rubber Cargo Condemned.
The President of the French Republic, acting on the report of the Department of the Council of State dealing with Legislation, Justice and Foreign Affairs, has dismissed an application respecting some rubber on the Boeroe which had been confiscated. The application was on behalf of Messrs. Konine, Teves & Co., merchants, of Amsterdam, acting in the capacity of consignees and owners of 18 cases of rubber seized on board the steamer Boeroe on Oct. 10, 1914, by the French cruiser Gaulois; and Mr. J. J. van Bennekom, of Batavia, shipper of the said goods. The Prize Court, on May 19, 1915, condemned the rubber and the decision is upheld.America and the Red Sea.
A Direct American steamship service between the United States at the Red Sea commercial district via South Africa and India, is about to be inaugurated by the Smith Navigation Company, of New York. The number of steamers to be engaged in the service is not yet published, but one has already reached Durban on the outward trip. This first steamer is expected to be retained temporarily for service between Indian Ocean ports, Pondicherry on one side and to Aden on the other. The registered tonnage of the steamers that are planned for use in this service is 1,600 to 2,000 tons each, with a carrying capacity of about 3,000 tons. All the steamers will fly the American flag.Blue Book Rates.
The decision of the Ministry of Shipping to permit advances on the Blue Book rates to merchant shipowners constitutes an official admission of an incontestable claim for consideration. Since the fixing of the rates certain revisions have been made, in some cases in favour of, in others against, shipowners, these adjustments having been made prior to the date when all shipping came under the requisition Order. The steady increase of working expenses which has gone on without intermission naturally became more onerous with the operation of the Order in its latest form. At the same time the advance will only partially recoup owners for increased working costs.—"L. & C. Express."Canton's Clearances.
The total number and tonnage of vessels which entered and cleared at Canton during the quarter ended in December, 1917 was 2,372 vessels of 1,073,247 tons comparing this with the same quarter 1916 a decrease of 270 vessels and 108,053 tons is shown. Of the total 162 vessels of 212,429 tons were ocean steamers, in this instance there was a decrease of 116 steamers, and 53,961 tons, and 1,341 vessels of 828,477 tons were river steamers, showing a decrease of 5 steamers but an increase of 44,011 tons. The percentages of the total were 12 per cent. American; 6.6 per cent. British; 0.6 per cent. Dutch; 3.8 per cent. Japanese; and 31.8 per cent. Chinese. Of the ocean steamers 63.5 per cent. were British and 36.5 per cent. Chinese, and of the river 0.7 per cent. were American; 67.2 per cent. British; 1.7 per cent. Dutch; 18.3 per cent. Chinese and 12.1 per cent. Japanese.Shanghai Freight.
Messrs. Whoolock and Co's (Shanghai) Freight Market Report of July 4 states:—The situation in our local freight market is as follows:—To United Kingdom.—No change. To United States via Pacific.—Cargo in this direction has fallen off latterly to a very marked degree, partly of course on account of the high rate of exchange ruling but principally on account of U.S. Government restrictions so that the steamers on the various berths are receiving very poor support and in some cases are unable to fill their allotments, besides which the "green" tea market has not yet opened but is expected to do so during the course of the next two or three weeks. As regards the rail rates overland—an official intimation has been received that the old rates for imports, via Pacific have been cancelled but full details of the new rates have not yet reached this side;—according to advices received by tea merchants the new rail on tea is Gold \$1.87 1/2 per 100 lb. for carload lots and G. \$2.50, for less than car load lots. Contrarywise.—Our Northern market continues firm in all directions and there is more cargo offering for shipment than there is tonnage to handle it.

BIG FIRE IN KENNEDY TOWN.

Ten Houses Completely Cutted.

A most disastrous fire broke out this morning in Belchers Street, and although the members of the Fire Brigade have been working upon the premises involved all day long, they were still busy playing water on the debris when we went to press, and will probably have to stand by for a day or two.

The alarm was given just after six o'clock, fire having broken out in the block of three-storied houses between Holland Street and Beach Street, the back of No. 40, Belchers Street being the seat of the outbreak. Belchers Street and the Prays run parallel, and between are two blocks of houses and godowns, and it was between these two blocks that the conflagration took a hold. In Belchers Street, the ground floors of all the houses are used as godowns for the storing of oils, and at the time the fire began a very large stock of wood oil, linseed oil and engine oil was stored. The actual cause of the outbreak has not been determined, but it was not long before the oil became ignited, and the flames, aided by a strong wind, soon spread and involved the whole block of twelve houses facing Belchers Street. The upper floors, which we used as dwelling houses, were soon vacated by the alarmed occupants, and it is pleasing to record that no single casualty has been reported.

The Fire Brigade were soon in attendance, all the engines and hose-boxes being hurried to the spot. The two fire floats were not in long arriving and in quite a short time a tremendous amount of water was being pumped into the burning buildings. So dense was the smoke given off, that the efforts of the firemen were severely handicapped, but by dint of hard work the godowns and living rooms facing the Prays, with the exception of one house in the middle of the block, were saved. The fire spread so rapidly that it was soon apparent that practically the whole of the block facing Belchers Street was doomed, and a large quantity of water was played on to the Po Hing Tai godown on the opposite side of Beach Street, for the flames were leaping right across the wide road. At the Holland Street end of the block, the fire was not so fierce, and the Brigade managed to save the end three houses from total demolition, although plenty of damage was done by water. The lane running between the two blocks of houses was soon a miniature river of oil and water, and the current of air passing through the lane fanned the fire to a considerable extent. With all the branch pipes available being trained on different points it was possible, by about nine o'clock, to say that there was no fear of the fire spreading further, and the total number of houses really seriously burnt out is ten. In the ground floors the oil was stored in stacked up tins, and it is the oil that is now giving the trouble, for it is almost impossible to thoroughly saturate the piled up and now leaking cans.

Streams of water and oil were coming out of the ground floors, when a representative of the *Hongkong Telegraph* paid a visit to the fire this morning, and it was curious to see a number of Chinese trying to collect the oil that was floating on the surface of the water by the Prays wall. Dipping a cloth into the floating oil and wringing it into a bucket, a good many of the Chinese were collecting quite a quantity. The godowns and houses facing the Prays show little signs of fire, for as stated above, only one of these became involved, and aided by the wind blowing from front to back the firemen were able to get this early under control.

The whole lot of the Fire Brigade attended, under Station Superintendent Lane, and during the fire the Hon. O.S.P. (Mr. C. McL. Messers) attended. Chief Inspector Kerr was also present. A word should be added for the Volunteer firemen, many of whom were early on the spot and who rendered valuable assistance.

TO-MORROW'S TRIBUNAL.

The Cases to be Considered.

The following cases are to be considered at to-morrow's sitting of the Tribunal:—

The Vacuum Oil Company. The following are medically fit:—

1. O. O. Stark.
2. A. Losch.
3. J. Brook.

The following man of military age from this Company has been rejected as unfit for service:—A. Jenkins.

A. S. Watson and Co. The following are medically fit:—

1. W. T. Elson.
2. E. W. H. James.
3. H. E. S. Payne.

The following men of military age from this firm have been rejected as unfit for service:—F. O. Todd, J. R. Suter, A. W. Smith, D. Wilson, W. H. Whitley and W. H. B. Musket.

Hongkong Tramway Co. The following are medically fit:—A. D. McDonald. The following men of military age from this company have been rejected as unfit for service:—W. E. Roberts.

The Dairy Farm Company. The following are medically fit:—

1. P. J. Taylor
2. T. Oliphant
3. B. W. Bradbury

The following men of military age from this Company have been rejected as unfit for service:—J. A. Ballin, W. Macfarlane and F. G. Thompson.

Alex. Ross & Co. Of this firm, J. Wattie is medically fit.

The following men of military age from this firm have been rejected as unfit for service:—P. A. Leader, L. le Breton and A. W. Smith. The following man is on leave from the Colony:—D. K. Moss.

L. M. S. Case. A. Hughes, of the London Missionary Society is medically fit.

APPEAL TRIBUNAL.

His Excellency the Governor-in-Council will sit at 9.30 a.m. on Thursday, the 18th inst., to hear an appeal by Messrs. Brewer and Co. from the decision of the General Military Service Tribunal.

TRAMWAY RETURNS.

The following is the approximate statement of the Hongkong Tramway Company's traffic receipts for the week ending 13th July, 1918:—

	Receipts for week.	Aggregate Receipts for 23 weeks.
This Year: ...	\$15,683	378,270
Last Year: ...	14,414	375,141
Increase: ...	1,269	3,129
Decrease: ...		

750,000 Boy Scouts.

There are three-quarters of a million boy scouts in the world, according to General Sir Robert Baden Powell, who addressed an audience assembled at the Guildhall to witness the presentation to cadet and boy scouts of medals awarded by the French Government. English scouts, he said, had carried on a coastguard service since the war began, and there were 350,000 scouts in the United States, many of whom were helping the soldiers and selling war bonds and so on.

Members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade were also in attendance, but fortunately their services were not required.

Although the fire has been a large one it is to the credit of all concerned that it was not much more serious, for the nature of the blazing material made the fighting of it a particularly arduous task.

The actual cause of the fire is not known, and it yet too early to attempt to estimate the damage done, though it is known that it will run into many thousands of dollars. We understand that most of the property and material were insured.

WOMEN AND SHIPS.

Tasks They are Doing in Shop and Yard.

A correspondent of the *Daily Chronicle* writes:—

Shipbuilding! The very word rings like the clanking of innumerable hammers, and creates the mind vision of tall, gaunt shipsides, propped by scaffolding; of men like adventurous little pygmies clambering all over them hammering, riveting, hammering—clankety—clank—unceasing, monotonous, deafening. A man's job, you are unconsciously thinking.

And then you see a figure, clad in blouse, tiny close-fitting cap, and what seem to be breeches, and clambering also. Comical figure for a man, you think, and suddenly you see it is not a man but a woman, and further that she is painting. You admire her, you cannot help it, nor should you if you could. She is one of a legion of women who, amid all those who have so gallantly tackled the men's jobs, have hit on the shipyards as their sphere—have invaded the "heart of the fortress" from the toiling, sweating, pre-war man's point of view.

The tasks women are doing in and about the yards and marine engineering shops are innumerable. That fact tempted an engineer to say two years ago that by 1918 women would be able to build a battleship from keel to aerials. Too optimistic a statement, maybe, but let us consider for a moment what they have actually done.

I have before me a carefully compiled record of the multifarious jobs being done, and well, by women in and about shipyards and marine engineering shops. Before setting them down I will quote the words of an eminent Scottish shipyard expert: "Strength and endurance alone prevent women from doing all the jobs. They are intelligent enough—more intelligent than many of the men; they work hard; they don't get fed up with doing the same job constantly. Give them a repetition job that makes good pay, and they will go on with it week after week—quite happily. But there are jobs they cannot do: heavy riveting; working up to the knees in water and mud, repairing the keel of a ship, moving ships about the yards, and so on."

On board ship, women are fitting electrical apparatus for yard lighting, mains and telephones, and doing complex wiring work generally. Also they are chipping, scraping and painting (doing dredgers and steam hoppers externally and internally). In the yards they are hydraulic riveting, scraping and coating the bottoms of destroyers and submarines, driving cranes (some of 50 tons), French polishing, labouring (carrying 60lb. weights singly), loading into wagons and barges, cleaning and painting chain cables.

In the workshops in or near the yards they make and repair the overalls and "fearnought" clothing, make flags and sails and do upholstery. Many had thought that wood-working machinery ran at too high a speed for women, but women are operating machines for wood planing and for making wooden boiler tube plugs.

The engineering shops find them work on 6in. and 8in. slotting machines, horizontal and vertical drilling machines, and turret and capstan lathes (non-repetition work in very many cases and the women setting up their own tools). One woman, said to be able to turn her hand to any job, operates a radial turret drilling machine with capstan head which performs six operations. Overhead cranes are driven by women, and one woman drives a travelling jib crane among the small lathes. They are generally employed on radial and sensitive drills and milling machines, and turbine blades are made and assembled by them. Women are also scotylene welding, nut facing, and acting as plumbers' assistants. In the foundries they are "machine minding, core making, grinding, packing, and sorting."

The boiler shops find them work drilling, boring, turning, slotting, helping light plates, painting, sanding with wire

BARON D'ERLANGER.

Valuable War Service to the Government.

Replying to a question by General Croft in the House of Commons, recently the Home Secretary, Sir George Cave, said that Baron Emile d'Erlanger was not under any restrictions as to travelling. He had during the war paid several visits to France with the permission of the British and French military authorities; but Sir George was not aware that he has visited any other foreign country. "I may add," said Sir George, "that Baron d'Erlanger was born in France, and became a British subject by naturalisation in 1891. I am informed that he has rendered valuable services to the Government during the war, and that his son is serving in the British Army and has been awarded the Military Cross." (Cheers.)

Sir J. D. Bess: "Is it not a fact that this gentleman's Continental affinities are Belgian and French and in no way German; that he occupies a position of high estimation in London; and is it not very unjustifiable to suggest that he has been engaged in any undesirable enterprises?" (Hear, hear.)

General Croft: "Could he go to Switzerland without passports?"

Sir George Cave: "No, sir, no one can go across the Channel without passports. This gentleman was born in France; his father, I think, was a German, but he lived the greater part of his life in France, whether naturalised or not I do not know. He (Baron d'Erlanger) has been nearly all his life in this country, and was naturalised a number of years ago."

LEAGUE TENNIS.

Royal Engineers v. Kowloon.

The Royal Engineers on Saturday played their last League match, maintaining their unbroken record of wins. Kowloon were their opponents and victory was secured by 54 games to 45. The scores were:—

Raworth and Heath lost to Jewsbury and Stapleton 6-9, beat Macaskill and Lindell 6-5, lost to Crook and Foster 5-8.

Charters and Townsend lost to Macaskill and Lindell 5-8, beat Crook and Foster 7-4, lost to Jewsbury and Stapleton 4-7.

MacGregor and Crickbush lost to Macaskill and Lindell 8-3, beat Crook and Foster 7-4, beat Jewsbury and Stapleton 7-4.

Civil Service v. Stonecutters. This Junior League match resulted in a win for Stonecutters by 52 games to 47. Scores:—

Horlop and Green beat Clark and Wood 8-3, beat Carter and Lyle 7-4, beat Edmonds and Haskett 9-2.

Dunbar and White beat Clark and Wood 6-5, beat Carter and Lyle 6-5, beat Edmonds and Haskett 7-4.

Lawrence and Knight lost to Clark and Wood 3-8, lost to Carter and Lyle 1-10, lost to Edmonds and Haskett 5-9.

machines, pickling boiler tubes, cutting tubes, removing burrs from tubes and plugging them, and turning tube expander mandrels. They are fitting and filling pipe and valve flanges, filters and valves, and bending superheater tubes. They are constantly working in the rigging house on wire ropes of 1½ inches, and have done 2 inches. In the brassiers' shops they are repairing lamps and soldering.

Of the more readily suitable jobs, such as tracing, storekeeping, time-keeping, scotching and spinning fibre in rope shops, looking after switchboards in generating stations, and lacquering, there are a great number.

All these are not jobs ideally suited to women. That the women are doing them, and, on the whole, well, is sufficient tribute to their fearless adventuring on any task open to them, to their inspiring industry, and to their great and whole-hearted championship of the cause of humanity—the Allied cause.

AMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY.

Some Particulars of its Operations.

We are asked by the General Agent of the American Express Co. to state that on or about August 1st the company anticipates moving its headquarters from the present location, to No. 11, Queen's Road, Central, the old office of the Mercantile Bank of India, Ltd.

While the name of the Company might imply that it is completely American in its application, it is essentially international, since the ramifications of its business extend to all parts of the world.

Its activities cover banking, shipping and travel facilities. This is designated by its "Trade mark" a globe across which has spread the words "World's Service." Many years ago the Company, which had heretofore been represented in foreign countries by correspondents, found it necessary, owing to the development of its foreign operations, to place its organisation in Europe, and several years ago in South America and the Far East, now maintaining offices in England, France, Italy, Holland, Belgium, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Russia, Argentina, Republic, Japan, China and the Philippine Islands. Its services are "interlocking." Through its Banking Department the Company finances exports and imports, issuing letters of Credit and drafts, its speciality in Hongkong being American business. The Company's Travellers' checks are world famous, especially since the trying day of the war as they were one of the few institutions who were able to meet their obligations after the declaration of war without being obliged to take advantage of any moratoriums.

The Company also maintains a Foreign Trade Bureau in America which supplies information in regard to the opportunities for marketing products in any part of the world, Customs duties, trade possibilities, credit conditions, etc., etc.

One of its most recent establishments has been the Travel Bureau in America and Europe. This department arranges tours at inclusive rates to all parts of the world, special steamers being chartered where necessary. The steamer arrangements in respect to the first contingent of the American Red Cross workers that were sent over to Europe were effected through the American Express Company at New York. One of the most interesting functions which the Company has successfully performed since the outbreak of the war has been the transportation of food and other supplies to Allied prisoners of war in Germany, Austria, Bulgaria and Turkey. The Company was selected by the British Prisoners of War Help Committee, set up by the British Government, as its official agents for transportation and for the remittance of funds to prisoners. The Company arranged for the immediate encashment of checks drawn by officer prisoners on their London banks, also honoured drafts drawn by officers of the Mercantile Marine on steamship companies, banks and private persons. These checks were not infrequently the first news which reached home of the officer's internment as a prisoner of war. Many dramatic stories could be told of the Company's experiences in connection with the war work with which its service has been so closely identified from the outbreak of hostilities.

The American Express Company has been in successful operations for over 70 years and has attained the prominent position it occupies in the commercial world by the employment of advanced methods, liberal enterprise, and the display of a progressive spirit in studying and meeting the demands of its patrons and of the public generally. Its business engages over 30,000 employees, thousands of horse and wagon, thousands of automobiles and many hundreds of

"Express" cars, specially built to carry the various classes of goods which they handle. The Express cars (running on all the lines of railroad occupied by the Company) sometimes constitute entire trains which are operated at passenger speed.

It has exceptional facilities for the transportation of heavy merchandise not requiring great speed, at current rates for the movement of such traffic. The safety and celerity with which all its services are performed are among its most valuable features.

The American Express Company have over 1,500 men serving with the colours; and as showing the international character of its staff, it may be stated that it has members serving with the American, British, Canadian, French and Italian Armies and Navies. Many of the staff have earned high honours for distinguished service in the field.

PEACE OFFENSIVE URGED IN BERLIN.

Pan-German Organ Calls for Statement of Terms.

Amsterdam, June 2:—"The peace offensive can now begin—a peace offensive and no peace offers. The preparatory work must be quickly accomplished. Something must be done, for time presses. Now is the time for our military successes will make this action more effective. He who will allow only the sword to speak takes too narrow a view of this war and has no understanding for its political demands."

In these words, taken from a long and prominently displayed article, an important Berlin newspaper makes an emphatic demand for a definite announcement of German war aims and for an immediate "peace push."

It is not the *Vorwärts* nor any democratic organ, but a mouthpiece of high military and conservative parties which makes this sudden demand. It is the *Kreis*.

The article, with attractive good deal of attention in the rest of the German press, is all the more remarkable for its candid admission that the German Government has totally failed to make clear to the slightest extent what the Fatherland is really fighting for. It ridicules the idea that a clear statement of war aims is tantamount to throwing the cards on the table, and warns the Government seriously against appearing at a peace conference with unexpected demands.

Should it do so, "then it runs the risk of encountering serious opposition, of making the negotiations more difficult, and of having to bear the odium of the failure of the discussions. It is evident that any of these results would have a serious effect on the people of the country."

The writer insists that no one knows what Germany's programme of peace demands consists of and declares that the enemy obtains considerable advantages from this chaos. A battle of a thousand programmes in the country—he regards as harmful—and thinks that before the year is out the Government will find that out. He then goes on to say:

"The decking out of artificial statebuilding in the East perhaps, at the moment has satisfied the hunger of people for definite leading just as little as the other palliatives now being applied to secondary questions of the day. Is the Government not aware that the people must know where the road leads? We demand, once more that the Government should give that information."

The writer does not set forth any sketch of a war aims programme, but says that it must be "something else than pitifully unsuccessful peace offers."

"We cannot live alone after the war," he adds, "for our field of activity is the world, and therefore, we wish an understanding doing justice to our demands."

These demands are defined vaguely as those "which the bases of our existence," and he urges as delegates to the suggested conference of "an economic expert, a Colonial authority, a

SOLDIER'S LOST MEMORY.

Restored by the Crash of a Raider's Bomb.

A queer story of adventure was told by a soldier named John Lewis when charged at West Ham recently with embezzling £7 odd.

He denied the charge, and said that last August he went to pay over the money, but there was no one to receive it. Then he was knocked down by a van and taken to West Ham Hospital. He remembered nothing else till December when he "came to his senses" after a bomb dropped near him in a London district. He then made his way to his home at Ordiff, where his mother introduced him to a young lady and said she was his wife. He refused to believe it, but was shown the marriage certificate, which stated that he was married at St. Alban's, Holborn, on December 15, 1917.

The clerk of the court said there was no record at West Ham Hospital of Lewis's admission, but he had described exactly to the police the room into which he was taken, how he was treated, and the doctor who attended him.

In answer to the magistrate Lewis gave the name of the port at which he landed, or if he time he went to France, the name of his regiment, and his regimental number. He also said he had been twice wounded, but his papers had been lost in the bomb explosion.

When he was bound over, Lewis was removed from the dock in a fainting condition.

S.E.F. Outing. Members of the R.E., A.S.C. and Middlesex Detachments, Kowloon, thank the subscribers to the Service Entertainment Fund for an enjoyable launch trip round the Island on Sunday, the 14th inst.

25 hens Equal one Cow. A surprising statement as to the value of poultry was made by Mr. Tom Barron at a meeting of the National Utility Poultry Society on Saturday. He said a hen was a little thing, but 25 hens would produce more value in money than a cow.

Doctor's Wooden Tricycle. Dr. T. J. Scholliak, a pioneer of cycling, had died at Streatham at the age of 83. Many years ago he made a wooden tricycle which he used in paying professional visits as a practitioner of Guildford for many years, the machine weighing 145lb. Dr. Scholliak was formerly coroner of Guildford.

Silver Stars for Specials. It is proposed to present silver stars, to be worn on the sleeve, to all members of the metropolitan special police who were enrolled prior to January 1, 1915, and have since done continuous service. Over 8,000 men are entitled to the decoration.

representative each of the army and navy, an international law professor and a historian, under the presidency of a suitable diplomatist, with the task of drawing up a definite programme. The article lays special stress on the need for fixing German demands as against England.

Most of the world will, like the *Vorwärts* in its comment, have somewhat serious suspicions when, as in this case, a Pan-German organ talks of peace on the "bases of German existence" which has been drummed into us only too often and clearly as the annexation of the Belgian Longwy region of France and the Flanders coast, various frontier changes, &c. But the *Vorwärts* is inclined to be pleased. "We, too," it declares, "demand that the Government a peace offensive. We, too, demand the making known of concrete war aims. But we demand that the programme shall correspond to the solemn statement made at the beginning of the war. 'We are driven on by no act of conquest.' We demand that the diplomatic offensive shall convince our enemies that from victorious Germany they have to fear no oppression, no violence, and tearing away of national territory. A military offensive alone will not bring peace."

Codes,—A.B.C., 5th, A.Z. Français,
Omnibus and Private.

ELSHI ONO, Manager
Hongkong, 11th March, 1918.

